Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for preserving the ratio of the tensile strength in the length direction to the tensile strength in the breadth direction of a mat of filaments which is in displacement, passing from one conveyor to another, characterized in that the mat is subjected to a vacuum applying it to a support during the passage from the first conveyor to a movable element.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mat is slowed while it passes from the first conveyor to the movable element.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the first conveyor is that onto which the filaments for forming the mat are deposited.

4. (currently amended) An installation for producing a nonwoven fabric, comprising a spun-bonding tower ~~(1)~~ depositing a mat of filaments onto a first conveyor ~~(2)~~, the

mat being delivered on a first movable element ~~(5)~~ to means ~~(6)~~ for consolidation by entanglement, and means intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the first movable element ~~(5)~~, characterized in that the means ~~(4)~~ intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the first movable element ~~(5)~~ comprise a second movable element ~~(4)~~ having a device for the application of a vacuum which maintains the mat on the outer surface of the second movable element ~~(4)~~.

5. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in claim ~~3 or~~ 4, characterized in that the second movable element is a drum ~~(4)~~ or a conveyor.

6. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in ~~either of claims 4 and 5~~ claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor ~~(2)~~ is more air-permeable than the first movable element ~~(5)~~.

7. (original) The installation as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the first conveyor has an air permeability of between 500 and 1100 CFM (14.1 and 31 m3/min).

8. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in

claim 5 ~~or 6~~, characterized in that the first movable element ~~(5)~~ has an air permeability of between 50 and 500 CFM (1.41 and 14.1 m3/min).

9. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in ~~one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor is a multilayer cloth, while the first movable element ~~(5)~~ is a single layer cloth.

10. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in ~~one of claims 4 to 9~~ claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor ~~(2)~~ delivers the mat directly to the means ~~(4)~~ intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass.

11. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in ~~one of claims 4 to 10~~ claim 4, characterized in that the first movable element ~~(5)~~ has a suction device ~~(7)~~ which cooperates with the means ~~(4)~~ for causing the mat to pass, in order to facilitate the passage of the mat from the means ~~(4)~~ to the first movable element ~~(5)~~.

12. (currently amended) The use of a machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims 4 to 11~~ claim 4, for preserving the ratio of the tensile strength in the length direction to the tensile strength in the breadth direction

of a mat of filaments which is in displacement, coming from a spun-bonding tower and going to a device for consolidation by means of water jets.